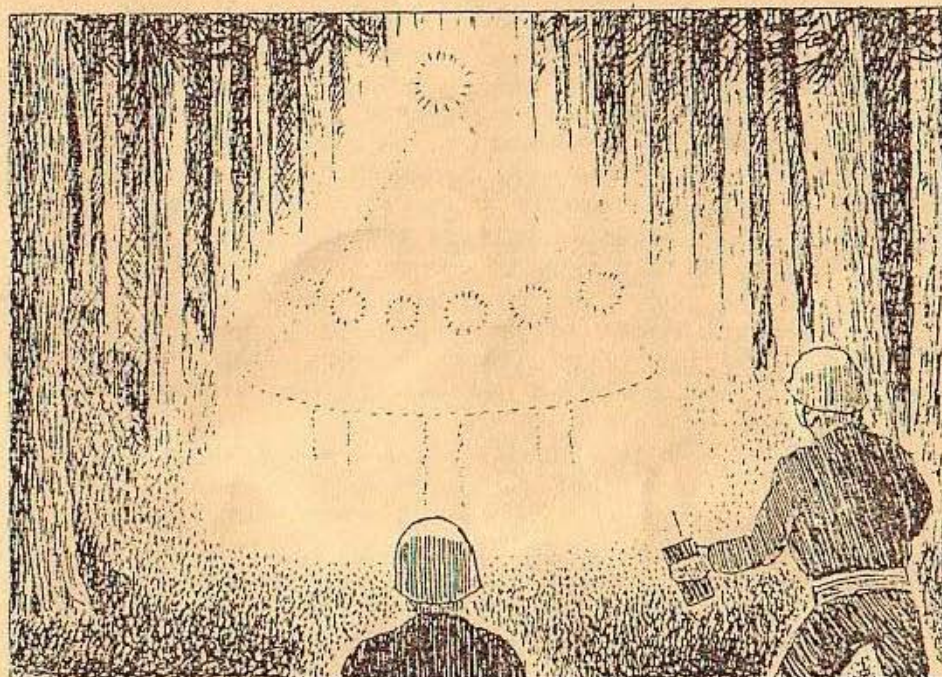


NORTHERN UFO NEWS

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September 1994



In Renditham Forest

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EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES

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J. R. Comments ...

I guess you know what's coming - an apology! This is the June issue (arriving just a wee bit late). The good news is that my workload is thinning, as the TV series is now complete (Strange But True? should air on the ITV network late October - watch out for that). Now I can start on the backlog of several hundred letters to which I owe a rather belated reply. The (other) bad news is that we are moving to the coast some 60 miles away soon. So expect the August issue around November... No doubt, I'll catch up in 1995! Again I remind that, whatever the delays, subscribers will still get the six issues they have paid for (even if it takes a bit longer than a year for me to deliver them!). Letters addressed to Stockport will reach me for now, of course... I'll have my new address for you next time around...

From time to time in these pages I have commented on the sort of case that challenges all preconceptions. I consider such events to be of great importance, because UFOlogists have a tendency to come up with an idea, stick rigidly to it and never contemplate alternatives. Thus, if one accepts UAP (unidentified atmospheric phenomena - be they earthlights or plasma vortices) then the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is likely to slide out of all consideration, except, perhaps, as a source of anger and frustration at what well-meaning idiots actually believe these days.

The same is undoubtedly true in reverse. Most committed supporters of ET spaceships probably regard UAP as either nonsense or an irrelevance (on a par with misidentifications of laser lights or stars). Aside from the fact that these IFOs can often teach us more about UFOlogy than most unexplained reports, this one-sided approach to our research exists because of a common misapprehension. That is the mistaken belief that there is one UFO mystery to which there is a single all-embracing explanation.

Sorry, I don't believe that for a moment. I consider the one truly important step forward that we have made is the recognition that there are UFO mysteries (plural) for which there are multiple, perhaps completely independent explanations (also plural). I do not find it ridiculous, or even improbable that aliens, earthlights, plasma vortices and more (eg Albert Budden's interesting new ideas about a form of electromagnetic pollution) can all co-exist. At the very least, research into each should be welcomed by all researchers, because nobody has a monopoly on truth - even though many of us seem to like to think that we do.

This is why cases that challenge your preconceptions should be given very serious study. Important reports like the Trans-en-Provence landing in 1981, where radiation changed the cell structure of plants on the ground. It is a key reason why I have remained so fascinated by the so-called 'Ilkley Alien' photograph (Peter Hough's investigation of which was first reported over six issues of this magazine back in 1988/1989).

Many of you will have seen this in the UK press, where it was recently given prime exposure after an American UFOlogist hyped it to a recent crop circle conference. Unfortunately, the version the public was presented with by the media was fraught with errors and an absurd 'sketch' (complete with horns!) that had nothing to do with the witness, despite claims to the contrary. It was a (shall we say) imaginative reconstruction, presumably made by some well-meaning UFO buff. Peter Hough has responded to the media nonsense in the September 10 edition of 'Psychic News' (which features an excellent and objective report). His and my new 'The complete book of UFOs' (Piatkus) also has the correct version of events and their investigation.

Superficially, a photograph of what is, in effect, an ET lookalike is not the sort of thing to which one ought to pin one's credibility. Both Peter and I felt for a long time after its discovery that the most likely solution was a hoax, and, indeed, the majority of MUFORA members who were around at the time probably still feel that same way. However, I know that Peter has attempted to find evidence of a hoax and I also know that the witness, seven years on, stands by his story and has never made any money from his picture or endeavoured to gain any publicity for himself. Only a handful of people have either met him or know his real identity.

Being honest one has to say that it is still possible (perhaps even likely) that this picture is a fake. To have an abductee film the entity that allegedly abducts him seems too good to be true. However, being equally honest one also has to say that there is no evidence to support this (beyond a few hints - such as the problem over the 'white box' on the ground terrain). The reluctance to accept the possibility that this case could be genuine - perhaps a new step forward by the UFO mystery - has as much to do with inherent prejudice and self-constructed belief systems as it does to balanced judgement from the available evidence.

I know Peter Hough well and am sure that, much as he has strong attachment to this photo and the witness (he knows the latter on a personal basis quite well) he would be the first to accept the truth if this case were ever exposed as a fraud. For now, he reserves judgement and, if anything, supports the witness. The balance of probability is indeed in favour. I think that's how it should be. We ought to let the evidence dictate our opinions, not our opinions dictate how we selectively interpret the evidence.

As I write these words, the GAO (General Accounts Office) in the USA has just announced its findings after nine months searching the archives for data on the infamous Roswell crash. This is an independent body set in motion after UFOlogical and senatorial pressure this January and it has in the past spoken out against government policy. So it is not Clinton's pet poodle, by any means. It's decision to use its security clearance to access data that may not have emerged under the US Freedom of Information act was welcomed by both UFO groups and sceptics alike. However, the response to its findings will prove to be very different.

Most of you will know that there has never been any dispute that something fell on ranchland north of Roswell, New Mexico, in July 1947. The only dispute is what that something was. At first the local airbase announced it was a 'flying disc' (ie a UFO). Within 24 hours the USAF were backing down and saying it was a weather balloon, an idea that all eyewitnesses dismissed as ludicrous. However, such a seemingly laughable solution only worked at all because the debris described as having fallen at Roswell WAS, let's face it, balloon-like. There are anomalies (eg the reputed near indestructibility of the material) but thin wood like balsa, tin foil and parchment with stained writing on it, sound as likely to be from a balloon as they do from a spaceship that has crossed the universe.

Now, the GAO have revealed their findings. They claim it WAS a balloon - but not any old balloon, one used as part of a secret project called 'Mogul' to try to build an atmospheric device that could float over Russia and find out if they were exploding nuclear weapons. Perhaps those on the Roswell base had no need to know this and so were genuinely baffled. Perhaps the project's records then just got lost in a 50 year old bureaucratic maze.

Of course, this report will not end the Roswell saga. It will probably add new impetus to it. The sceptics will see it as vindication, the believers will (indeed already are) screaming 'cover up' and 'they would say that'.

However, what if the GAO had found evidence that something unknown had crashed? Then the believers would have felt vindication and the sceptics cried foul, no doubt arguing that the records that established the truth were simply missing after all that time.

My point here is to ask how many people (from either side of the UFOlogical divide) will judge this new report on its merits or simply because of their pre-existent stance about the case? Our inherent desire to prejudge is always rearing its head.

The same is true of the Bentwaters/Rendlesham Forest affair from December 1980 (certainly our equivalent of Roswell and another of those challenging cases). I cannot claim freedom from prejudice, having written two books on the affair and fairly obviously supporting the view that something odd occurred. Yet equally, as I say in 'From out of the blue' (the more recent of these books) the sceptics case is not without merit. But - we wonder - how can we reconcile what many think is the greatest case that ever was with this debunking solution as a satellite re-entry, meteor, lighthouse beam, rabbit holes and assorted hysteria - producing what sceptic Ian Ridpath terms 'a ghastly embarrassment to UFOlogy'?

Quite easily, in fact, because it all comes down to what evidence one accepts and what one rejects. Believers will take the witnesses at their word when they say they saw the lighthouse as well as the UFO. Sceptics will ask why they never mentioned that fact at the time and claim the infamous Halt 'live' tape recording of these events shows the periodicity of the flashing UFO to match that of the Orford Ness lighthouse. Sceptics will add that the holes in the forest were caused by rabbits noting (a point often ignored by believers) that they were filled with pine needles indicating they had to be old. Believers will return to indicate that rabbits cannot have leapt high in the air to smash a hole through the pine tree canopy 30 feet off the ground, something I have never seen the sceptics talk about.

Even on a case like this it comes down to selective assessment of the mass of seemingly conflicting evidence.

Over the next few weeks you will get a chance to make up your own mind about this remarkable case. ITVs 'Network First' documentary on UFOs will air (at present set for Tuesday 18 October at 10.40 pm). Whilst it will cover other cases (eg Roswell and Gulf Breeze - where, ironically, I will actually be that week - more on that next issue!) it also includes a segment on Rendlesham with witness Larry Warren and some of the locals talking.

A few weeks later a full length programme on the ITV network will discuss the case in the greatest, most accurate detail that has yet been possible. This episode of 'Strange But True?' features more - and mostly different - witnesses. Seeing these two features side by side should be very interesting. I have had nothing to do with 'Network First' so cannot tell you what to expect, but I have had a lot to do with 'Strange But True?' and can promise it's a blockbuster. A good deal that is new has emerged and in the book of the series (published by Piatkus in October) an even more detailed report was possible. I think it really sets the case up to be counted - one way or another. From this latest work I have learnt as much during the past six months as in the previous 13 years put together.

So, I suggest you watch your TV screens this autumn. Try to do so with a truly open mind. Dispell all previous thoughts about what may lie behind this case and assess the evidence as it unfolds, just as if you were the member of a jury. This will not be easy. In fact it will be very difficult if you are a committed UFOlogist. But it has to be worth a try.

Then, when ready, write and tell us what you now think the truth is!

BUFORA

A big thanks to all who sent kind wishes after last issues editorial. This told of my departure from BUFORA council and a tabloid newspaper expose that had just appeared. These two events were not directly related, of course; although the paper knew the background to my BUFORA disappearance. So I had to explain both matters to you asap. There was no other motive.

Your letters and cards have meant a great deal to me and fortunately things did not get as out of hand as they might have done. You'll be pleased to know my nephew and niece came through the media trauma well.

Philip Mantle did respond, as he was given chance to do. I have not included his lengthy letter here, nor did he ask me to do so, but I am happy for you to read it - if he gives you his permission. I felt most readers would prefer not to have endless debate on this issue. However, some of his comments might afford balance, and then, I promise, I will leave it at that.

I tried to make it absolutely clear in my editorial that I was not suggesting that any BUFORA officer, past or present, had taken this story to the 'News of the World'. Indeed that I had no idea who had done so. This remains the case and probably always will. I have wasted no effort trying to upturn stones and find the worm that was to blame. Nonetheless, Mantle argues that; 'despite your disclaimer I have no doubt that you are trying to imply that I was the person who informed the News of the World.' In fact I infer no such thing and firmly emphasised the opposite. However, he still feels the need to state that he had nothing to do with the expose.

Mantle also argues; 'despite what you say I have no doubt that you would have relished a rebellion (at BUFORA) had it come.' Yet I turned down more than one proposal regarding this. Quite a few people wanted me to help launch a new national group to challenge BUFORA. I was also offered the D of I (director of investigations) job with an already existing national group - but remained faithful to BUFORA as a member and still continue to do UFO Call (without payment or expenses - so I'm not doing it for the money!) I could also have stood independently for election to council at the April 1994 AGM (members were urging me to do so). Then the 600 strong membership (not just a few councillors) would have decided whether they wanted me on the board. I chose to do none of these things, and, indeed, in NUN have stressed my continued personal support for BUFORA as an organisation. I trust this shows that what the new D of I suggests is simply incorrect.

Mantle also states that he has found me one of the 'most uncooperative people I have ever had to deal with' and how many at 'YUFOS (Quest)', IUN and former BUFORA colleagues have in the past reliably informed me of what an unsavoury character you can be... He is entitled to say that; although I note he thanks me for my help at the front of his new book. Mantle adds; 'you have more faces than a town hall clock and Phil Cool put together'.

Despite such sentiments, he urges that we 'put it all behind us and start again...stop all this nonsense...and 'shake hands'. I remain a bit reluctant, but in BUFORAs interests would never rule out any possibility.

ROSWELL REVELATION

As we go to press America's GAO (General Accounts Office) announced results of their nine month archive search for missing documents to learn what happened during the infamous 1947 Roswell affair. This independent trouble-shooting body claim it WAS a balloon, after all - from a secret 'Project Mogul', built to get high altitude data about Soviet nuclear tests.

NEWS ROUND UP

:: UFO Research Australia has been going through a bit of a transformation this summer (or winter - it is winter down under, remember!) First Keith Basterfield, their Staffordshire born abduction specialist, quit his research director post to focus on project work. He stated that his research into CE4s may 'lead me to wander into areas that may move away from my past 'middle-of-the-road' position'. As UFORA are purposefully middle-of-the-road in approach he felt a breakaway important. He stresses that he will remain a UFORA associate. Jim Atwell took on the job vacated but then almost immediately quit too! Pressure of work was the reason here - although Jim continues his post as the South Australia coordinator. The new UFORA research director is Harry Griesberg - who formed the original Australian centre in liason with Allen Hynek in 1973. Harry is an old friend of NUN, having penned a guest editorial more years ago than he or I care to remember! So good luck to him and UFORA. The new contact address is: - PO Box 400 Gosford NSW 2250 Australia Tel: 043-242-376 Fax: 043-231-942

:: John Holman of the AAC (Alien Acknowledgment Campaign) - UK equivalent of America's 'Operation Right to Know' - has announced 1 October as a 'UK National Awareness Day'. A media campaign will be launched. In 1995 there will also be 'International Roswell Day' to link in with cinema release of a Roswell movie. No date yet. Ref the title, by the way, I fear that in the UK more people would support a 'right to know' campaign than one set to acknowledge aliens - as not all (or even most?) British researchers do - if you see what I mean! His address is: - 20 Newton Gardens Ripon Yorks HG4 1QF

:: Between September and December 1995 Fortean Times are coordinating a museum style exhibition on the paranormal and UFOs in Croydon, London. They are searching for physical artifacts of UFO relevance (ie bits of crashed UFOs, models, waxwork aliens, etc). If you possess - or know of - any items contact organiser Ian Simmons at: - 16 St Dunstan Rd Leicester LE3 9DD

:: I also had an appeal from Julia Wright who has just joined a UFO group and wants to 'exchange info/photos/stories/experiences and paper clippings' If you can help write to: - 56 Water Lane South Normanton Derbys DE55 2EE

:: Jo-Anne Wilder asks me to mention the GEM (Gloucestershire Earth Mysteries) new venture '3rd Stone' magazine. I haven't seen a copy but it claims to take a 'no nonsense approach to ancient sites and symbolic landscapes' with a 'nod and wink to folklore, UFOlogy and parascience'. It costs £2.50 from GEM Publications PO Box 258 Cheltenham Glos GL53 0HR

Issue 2 of New UFOlogist was in final preparation as I write. It features a Pennine CE4 and a fine piece on the alleged cover-up, amongst various other items. Should be available now via 71 Knight Ave Canterbury Kent CT2 8PY (4 issue subscription costs £8)

:: Readers without satellite/cable for Sky 1 note that the excellent drama series 'X-Files', which I have mentioned before, is rerun for 26 weeks from mid Sep on BBC-2 - Monday evenings. It often features UFOs. A new series is going out in the USA now and comes to Sky here in January. Don't miss it.

:: A US mag has written asking why I won't renew. Reason, I haven't had any copies. They sent them all to Hatband Road Chedle Heat Chesl Australia...!

ORGONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Andy Collins recently updated me on happenings during Orgone 94 - the sequel to last years venture in the cornfields of Wessex. This had an aim to capture evidence of the mysterious 'Orgone' energy - an atmospheric/psychic force that might trigger both UFO and crop circle events and which was first written about years ago by Wilhelm Reich.

Andy tells me that the late July/early August research uncovered some fascinating electronic readings this time around. Indeed, that 7 out of the 10 noted rises in background radiation levels occurred coincident with the teams special meditation exercises alongside their equipment.

There were also several visual sightings, the most impressive on the night of 26 July when a massive burst of light was seen at 200 feet over East Field, near Alton Barnes, Wilts, amidst thick fog. Two witnesses saw this independently when it was directly over their heads. At the time of this event an Orgone 94 camera was taking time exposures and was unfortunately pointing in the opposite direction, but an odd orange streak was recorded on film. Research into possible explanations are continuing.

Andy hopes to publish a full report soon on last years work in a book length publication entitled 'Alien Energy', and a progress report on Orgone 94 will also appear. For further information on these and to order copies of this innovative work write to:- PO Box 189 Leigh on Sea Essex SS9 1NF

CIRCULAR LOGIC

I had a letter from long term NUN reader, Roger Walker, whose views I much respect. Although I have not seen the latest 'Cerealogist' he kindly sent a photocopy of an article from there by John Michel ('Only the guesses have changed'). Roger says that for him (and others he has shown this to) this is 'one of the best articles we have had on crop circles' and he hopes it might help me to be 'a little less harsh' with the magazine.

In effect Michel (a highly regarded stalwart of the earth mysteries field) says that the focus should be on the circles themselves, not the countless explanations for them, as all theories have been guesses and all guesses have been shown to be wrong. He notes that Terence Meaden 'twisted the evidence' to fit his theory - eg 'by bringing in mysterious plane crashes' (I always thought it was Colin Andrews and Pat Delgado who had first mooted that plane crash idea in FSR - perhaps wrongly). He claims that Meaden's work has now been exposed as a 'delusion'.

However, Michel is far from one-sided in his attack on theories. He lambasts the CCCS for its magic ritual associations, points out the absurdity of the assorted decodings of circle language, claims that the (in my view) ill-conceived 1992 'hoax-a-circle' competition 'opened the way' for the success of the hoax theory. Yet despite all that 'we are left with a continuing phenomenon, just as mysterious now as in the beginning.'

Michel's article is certainly an interesting summary and not without merit, but I would not (from my perspective, at least) eulogise about it. That is probably because I utterly dispute its basic theme; that we have discovered nothing about circles. I rather feel that we have discovered everything - of importance, anyhow - although there is much work to be done.

This will be a near heretical viewpoint, but it is what I believe, because I feel it is what the accumulating evidence decrees. If I am proven wrong by future events, then I will happily say so. No truth is unshakable.

I actually agree that Meaden made serious errors in trying to force-fit pictograms into his theory, amongst other things. Long term readers of NUN will know how I argued these were hoaxes, and nothing has occurred since to change my view. However, a lot has happened to affirm my opinion that there are - and always have been - a few simple, genuine circles. We have records worldwide and stretching well back into history. This implies a natural, atmospheric phenomenon. Whilst circles do sometimes have electrical properties I suspect this to be a side-effect and the overall solution is more like Meaden's very first guess - a fairweather, stationary whirlwind.

At a lecture in September at Ellesmere Port library I met a man who told me of an experience he had thirty years ago in north Wales where he stood in the centre of such a phenomenon and stepped in and out, feeling its field touch him and watching it create a small circle on crop stubble all around. This is by no means a unique case and it is evidence like this that has convinced me that circles are a consequence of hoaxing PLUS a natural long term atmospheric phenomenon. But I do not expect everyone to agree!

Circles have continued to form by the dozen even in these media-starved days. 1994 had hundreds. Contact UK report in a special newsletter (August) how on 26 July a half-mile long (!) pictogram formed near Ashbury, Oxfordshire. This is a record holder and must have taken the hoaxers a ridiculous amount of effort to produce - what on earth for, one might ask?

Meanwhile, the Summer 1994 issues of the two key magazines I see have appeared. The Circular (£2.50 or £10 for 4 ; The Circular 13 West Parade Norwich NR2 3DN) is its usual lively mix of photographs (eg of some of the early 1994 rich crop of circles) and a diverse range of analyses of samples, theories, oddities on site photos and lots of assorted musings. By far the most diverse and well produced magazine and always a good read.

The Crop Watcher (£1.50 or £6 for 4; Paul Fuller 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey SO51 7TY) could not be more different. It is rather austere in appearance by comparison with few illustrations (none at all this issue). Whilst it does have some contributed material it is more typically the thoughts of editor Paul Fuller and as such takes very much the Meaden line (with a hefty chunk of hoaxing thrown in). You either want to keep up to date with the latest data in this area, in which case TCW is indispensable and the only source, or else you will abhor what Paul does. You know by now which side of the fence I sit here, so I won't labour the point!

FOR YOUR PERUSAL

Major articles elsewhere



I thought I would provide a round-up of local groups who produce magazines (at least those that I see - others always welcome on exchange!).

Moving geographically, SUFORIN (Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network) have a new newsletter to A5 standard. Its neatly printed with letters, west country sightings and reviews, plus meeting dates, etc. Run by Sue Hembury-Kellow this is a very busy group with plenty to report. No price visible but address is: - 50 Polkes Field Stoke St Gregory Taunton TA3 6EX

Across the coast the Southampton UFO Group actually have a rarity - a monthly newsletter - and specialises in local press and TV features. This A4 publication is very newsworthy and good value at £5 for a years issues. Via: - Steve Gerrard 25 Weston Grove Rd Woolston Southampton SO19 9EE.

Pegasus comes from SIGAP (the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena) and is the oldest local group mag still available in the UK. Its A4 format, like Crop Watcher in image, but certainly not content, provides a good read. Under the editorship of Gordon Millington it features a wide mix of articles (although less cases these days) on ancient astronauts, ET theories, etc. By mid summer I had received the Spring 1995 issue and expect the summer edition just before Christmas (I gather there are reasons for this). £2 per issue from: - 126 Grange Rd Guildford Surrey GU2 6QP.

The old editor of Pegasus was Omar Fowler. Having emigrated up north he now edits Derbyshire group, PRA's mag, OVNI (OVNI is French for UFO). This is a newsy A4 monthly that always features lots of Peak District cases and reports on what is happening locally. Its also big on sensible crop circle coverage thanks to Omar. For east Midlanders its a must. Costs £1 per issue from: - 12 Tilton Grove Kirk Hallam Ilkeston Derbys DE7 4GR

UFO Reporter comes from the UFO Society of West Yorkshire and is an A5 magazine like SPI Enigmas in flavour; although more UFO dominated. There are newspaper photocopies, case reports and letters, plus commentary by editor Nigel Mortimer. £7 for 6: - N. Mortimer 19 Derry Lane Menston Ilkley LS29 6NQ

In the north-east there is Strange Days - my favourite title - published by NUFORI (Northern UFO Research and Investigation). Its a photocopied A5 with very limited production. Local cases and (sometimes esoteric) articles vie for space, but it does not appear to yet go beyond the group: - 9 Broderick Close Kenton Bar Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE3 3SG

Finally, IUFOPRA (Irish UFO and Paranormal Research Association) have their own monthly newsletter and quarterly Journal now, covering all thats strange in Ireland (a rich crop of things to discuss indeed). They are fighting for common sense and getting the media's back up - always a good sign. They seem worried about this, but I wouldn't be. Most people know what the media are like and if they respond to you then it usually means you are doing something right. From: - PO Box 3070 Whitehall Dublin 9 Ireland.

Enigmas Aug (£10 / 5: - M. Robinson 41 The Braes Tullibody Scotland FK10 2TT)
A very wide range from ghosts to ouija boards and Loch Ness to stigmata - plus a full report on the big Bonnybridge get-together at Falkirk town hall

World UFO 6 (No price: 16 Newton Green Gt Dunmow Essex CM6 1DU)
The usual lively mix of mostly photocopied articles from mags and papers.

BAE (\$25 US for 6: D. Gotlib 2 St Clair Ave West, Suite 607, Toronto M4V 1L5)
Aug: Debate on John Mack's book, aliens used as a defence in a child molestation case plus latest scientific abstracts from psychology press.

IUR May (\$30 US for 6: CUFOS 2457 W Peterson Ave Chicago IL 60659 USA)
Post traumatic stress disorder and abductions, a familiar looking new giant triangle case from the USA, a debate on the Roswell 'secret test' theory.

MUFON Journal (\$30 US for 12: 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin TX 78155-4099 USA)
Jun: Ed Walters is back. New Jan 1994 daylight photos of a UFO and a jet fighter together. Bruce Maccabee analyses and is convinced. Jul: Keith Basterfield updates Australian CE4s and Whitley Strieber is back, too, with his promised 1995 book - 'Beyond Communion: - The coming moment of contact'.

Just Cause Jun (\$20 US for 4: CAUS Box 176 Stoneham MA 02180 USA)
Great stuff as always. The balloon Mantell chased seemingly found at last!

FATE (£2.75 via Excalibur Books 1 Hilsdale Gdns Bangor N. Ireland BT19 6SJ)
Usual mix of true stories of the paranormal with a regular UFO column. The
worlds only newsstand monthly on the supernatural now almost 50 years old!

Skeptic Mar & May (£12 for 6: Dept B PO Box 475 Manchester M60 2TH)
Two simultaneous issues to catch up. Second part of their revised (or
rewritten) history of crop circles and the triumph of the sceptics, how
flying saucer shapes stemmed from a journalists error (not exactly news).

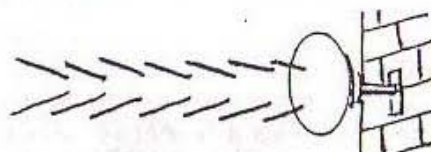
Ley Hunter 121 (£5.25 for 3:- Empress Box 92 Penzance Cornwall TR18 2BX)
Amongst much else (eg latest corpse road research) reports on an
extraordinary (and secret) 4 day conference in the remote wilds of
Hessdalen held during March. It brought together earthlights researchers
worldwide to create a blueprint and research team to move 'beyond UFOlogy'.

OVNI Presence Jul (35 SF for 4: OVNI CP 102 CH-1000 Lausanne 7 Switzerland)
New Swiss address for top French speaking mag. Smashing glossy publication
with great interviews (this issue on the new SETI quest) and reports on all
tats happening and in French - including some crop circles, by the way.

Rattler's Tale 21 (£6, for 4: A. North 2A Coronation Rd Walsall Wood WS9 9NG)
80 pp A5 issues full of snippets, letters and fictional stories (for which
they pay) - which do include paranormal topics.

MEDIA MATTERS

A look at UFOs in the public eye



It has been a busy summer for media stories. Not least there was
evidence that intelligent life has been discovered, or rather that some
folk read 'Rattlers Tale' magazine (see above). Last year I judged a
paranormal story competition for the mag. The winner wrote a supernatural
parable about the strange new phenomenon of disappearing trees. It was
invented, of course, and used as an allegory for how the world deals with
mysteries. There really WAS no such phenomenon - but perhaps it was no
surprise when the Daily Mail (16 Jul) introduced the 'Denuder Triangle'
(get it?) and 'the firs that went clump in the night'.

It seems that in villages such as Crays Pond and Woodcote, Oxfordshire,
young fir trees were vanishing overnight without explanation. In their
typically serious frame of mind the paper devoted a double paged spread and
spoke of relying heavily on 'cuttings' in their research. They assessed
options under review in the local pub, which included the extra-terrestrial
theory, largely fuelled by the fact that a few days beforehand two crop
circles appeared at nearby Ipsden. Police are involved in the mystery, and to
use the Mail's style, the latest news on this close encounter of the firs
kind - wood you believe - is that detectives have gone *alder* way in their
search for truth, but reckon it's *elm* entry. All will be *oak* ay in the end.

Meanwhile, the Mail (8 Aug) were one of countless papers caught by a
certain US UFOlogist who lectured at a crop circle convention releasing a
photo of the Ilkley Moor alien plus a 'detailed sketch' which various
sources then attributed to the witness. This ludicrous drawing (with horns)
had nothing to do with the witness and other given facts were wrong too.

Readers of NUN in 1988 will recall our six part series on the case. But this UFOlogist (who has before hired fields to spell out messages to aliens) did not reckon with Peter Hough, who owns copyright in the picture and has been fighting for the former police officer witness for years.

The Daily Star (9 Aug) even had the audacity to repeat its spurious (ie made up) explanation that the alien is an insurance salesman, last said to be wearing an anorak, carrying a briefcase and riding his bike over the moor. One problem, Peter Hough spoke with said alien, who flatly denied the story - something any cursory study of the photograph would support.

The Ilkley case (being the first alleged photograph of an alien by the relevant abductee) is discussed at length in 'The complete book of UFOs' - just published by Peter and I from Piatkus. You can judge the pros and cons for yourself. It may, of course, be ultimately unfounded, but that option has yet to be demonstrated. Sadly, through such sloppiness the media has now had a rare old laugh at a potentially vital case. The Oxford Mail (10 Aug) - for instance - in 'Moor Madness' rebuked the entire story core of the 'horned demon' sketch and wrote a lengthy comedy script around it - or rather around their uninformed third hand lack of knowledge about the case.

Albert Budden's research suggesting that electromagnetic pollution hot spots might trigger CE4s (see his book 'Allergies and Aliens' reviewed in the last NUN) also got a battering from The People (31 Jul). Abductee Maria Ward laid into him saying that she was 'seething' and 'he's just trying to jump on the bandwagon and sell his own book.' Marie may genuinely feel that her abduction was real, but this characterising of Albert's research is false. Whatever you think of it he published it legitimately and not just for hype. The People allege that 'UFOlogists describe Budden's claims as utter nonsense' - but the reverse seems true. He's had a good reception so far and, rightly so, as this is research well worth doing. The only 'utter nonsense' written here is from 'The People'. Not exactly a new phenomenon.

Malcolm Robinson of SPI was in the news, too, with an outcome from the Bonnybridge get together. He is reported in the Dundee Courier (2 Jul) as claiming that humans are direct descendants of aliens as a result of genetic experiments carried out in the past. Meanwhile, the Derby Telegraph (30 Jun) featured PRA, their local cases and 'The Bakewell Triangle'. Plus, in a sidebar, noted lecturer Arthur Tomlinson claiming 'extraterrestrial intelligence is coaching humans in interstellar travel'. Sadly, the RAF were not impressed by the idea. A spokesman said: 'Let's be serious. At a time of defence cuts, I don't think we have the time or the opportunity to build experimental aircraft in conjunction with aliens from outer space.' I disagree. There has to be some reason why so many aircraft have names like Comet, Galaxy, Starfighter and the like. The truth should be told.

Interestingly, in near contradiction, the Wolverhampton Express soon countered (2 Jul) with reference to a letter that Defence Minister, Lord Cranborne, had just sent MP Teddy Taylor, who had quizzed him on UFOs in the Southend area. Cranborne was adamant; 'we are not aware of any evidence that would support the existence of extraterrestrial life and we are not covering up any information on this subject' (So where is that RAF gun camera film, then?). Cranborne added that they knew of the 'more exotic stories' that circulate in UFOland but the MoD mostly just gets lights in the sky sent to them (don't we all?) Most intriguing, however, whilst it can explain most things, a few are unsolved and they are 'open minded on these'.

But someone should tell the Hungarian Defence Minister, Gyorgi Kaloty, about the MoDs stance. According to the Sunday Mail (14 Aug) he's just penned an article entitled: - 'We don't stand a chance in the UFO invasion.'



BOOKS OF THE MOMENT

The UFO Mystery: Solved by Steuart Campbell 208 pp Explicit £11.95

Steuart is one of that rare breed, a former UFOlogist turned sceptic. He is now Britain's premier debunker; although with the merit of first hand investigative experience. So he is neither uninformed nor needlessly critical. That makes what he has to say worth hearing, even if I do disagree with much of his analysis on many of the cases that he discusses.

I have reviewed this book at much greater length in 'The Skeptic', so here will confine myself to the basics. After a good introduction, in which the author has much sensible to say about the UFO myth, the book rather degenerates into a breathless attempt to reduce case after case to his all-embracing theory. This is that UFOs (be they simple LITS or complex CE3s) may be triggered by optical mirages of stars and planets.

From time to time his theory works and, I believe, taken this way, the book provides a useful contribution to our field. However, you soon begin to get suspicious when every classic case that you have ever come across (be it the Socorro or Livingston landing with traces, the Trindade Island multiple daylight photos, the Cash-Landrum radiation sickness affair, Rendlesham Forest, etc) is linked to a mirage. You picture Steuart feeding a date and time into a computer, finding a star in the relevant part of the sky and (irrespective of whether it was 2 am or 2 pm) proposing it as the culprit. At times he may well be right, but not as often as he suggests.

95% of all UFO sightings are IFOs, but there is just as little chance of a single solution from the IFO category as there to be a single unknown phenomenon. A promising idea commits here here by massive over application.

Nonetheless, this is a book worthy of some of your time. The address infers it to be self produced, but it's very professional with many photos (some in colour). Explicit Books is at:- 4 Dovecot Loan Edinburgh EH14 2LT

Strange South Yorkshire by David Clarke 152pp Sigma Books £6.95

This is the latest title in a growing series from Sigma that is covering the UK bit by bit. Already Paul Devereux, Peter Hough and myself have contributed for Cornwall and the Mersey region and 'Green Dragon's' Doug Pickford has two titles for the north midlands coming this autumn.

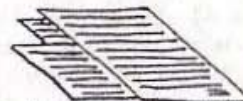
Dave Clarke is familiar to NUN readers as co-author on 'Phantoms of the Sky'. He has a degree in archaeology and history, is a local journalist in Sheffield and won the award for Yorkshire feature writer of the year. So you know this book will be a treat to read. It is also well illustrated.

The first half of the text focuses on myths and legends in the county, then the book moves into more modern fare with ghosts and a full chapter on UFO and crop circle events in the area. There's a good information section included. I heartily recommend this modest, unassuming yet delightful volume.

Just out in paperback is 'The Second Coming' by Andy Collins (a sequel to 'The Black Alchemist' and first reviewed in hardback in NUN last year). A typical rip-roaring yarn, like a supernatural adventure novel but reportedly true. It has 336 pages with photos, costs £5.99 and is published by Arrow.

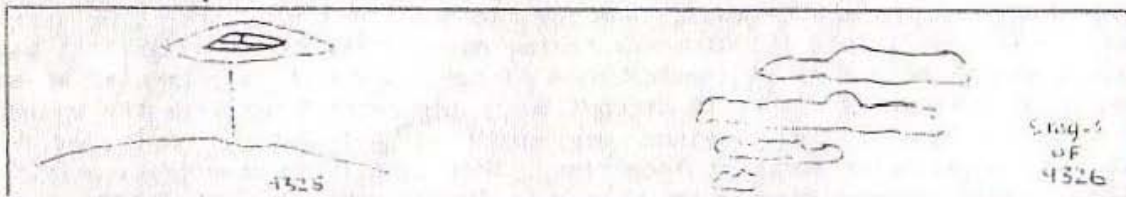
BRIEF CASES

Some current investigations



More Welsh Wonders (3) by Margaret Fry

In case 9325 on 29 January 1993 Mr & Mrs E and their 11 year old son were driving the lonely moor road over Moel Park mountains near the TV transmitter tower at Bodfari, Clwyd. Suddenly they saw a strange object that was climbing up the mast. This was yellow in colour and had a yellowish halo or haze around it. Inside were dark orange lines that seemed to define a cockpit area. When it reached near the top the object simply vanished. A car following behind on the road independently witnessed and reported the phenomenon. The shape is not unlike a helicopter, as used to inspect pylons. But no helicopter were known to be in the area at the time.



Quite the most astonishing report is case 9326 which occurred in broad daylight (11.00) on the warm, sunny day of 16 June 1993. B - a retired car engineer - was walking on the A5, a very busy road that crosses the Menai Straits from the Isle of Anglesey towards Bangor. Suddenly he saw a peculiar mass only 100 feet above the road moving south-north and drifting in a very odd way. It seemed to be changing shape, bending and stretching 'like dough'. One moment it was hat-like with a rim, then became a small ball, before repeating the sequence. It passed almost directly overhead and, whilst it was silent, B felt 'loud noises' in his ears when it was directly above. At this point he collapsed to the pavement feeling ill. As he lay there he saw a man walking in the opposite direction across the bridge, clearly looking at this 'strange cloud'. As it floated over him he too staggered in his path and almost fell, but tottered upright and walked on by. The man passed B, staring blankly ahead as if in shock. B, still on the ground, has regretted ever since that he did not speak to this man and exchanged addresses. The object moved away and B was able to continue on his route but felt ill for a couple of days afterwards, suffering a mild itchy rash, pins and needles sensation and nausea. He was too afraid of ridicule to consult a doctor. This remarkable story is extraordinarily similar to the rash inducing cloud seen by Dawn and others over Nepal in 1947 (see 'The very strange cloud' in chapter 6 of my book 'Abduction') There does indeed seem to be an ionized gaseous phenomenon 'out there' leaving electrostatic charge behind. This case may prove vital. Was it attracted to the metal structure of the bridge (as in Nepal a truck seemingly attracted it?) Were there no other witnesses because the bridge structure blocked their view?

Readers may purchase (as new) copies of some books at big discounts. On offer are:- *Phantoms of the Soap Operas* (£5), *Looking for the aliens* (£4), *The UFO Conspiracy* (£3), *Mind Monsters* (£3) and *Scary Stories* (£2) - all post inclusive (cheques payable 'Jenny Randles' via NUN cover address)

Finally, in case 9327 on 8 July 1993 a hotel owner was near Rhosneigr, Anglesey at 23.30 when he saw an object coming out of the sunset toward him. At first he thought it a military plane from RAF Valley but it moved slowly overhead and was totally silent. At the front was a large grey sphere followed by a small golden ball. It appeared very low and amazed him, despite familiarity with all types of jet and military aircraft landing locally.

Gazzumped by UFO

Case 80-106 Late 1980 19.00 Keighley, West Yorkshire NARO

Being involved in the trauma of a house move, this case appeals to me. Mrs B was trying to sell her home to prospective buyers and stood in the garden chatting to them when they all noticed it was oddly dark overhead. They remarked on the lack of stars and then it hit them. They were not looking at sky but a vast, black mass that was directly overhead and spanned across their view on all sides. Then, suddenly, a sequence of lights came on - filling the underside of the craft. It scared the purchasers to death, who leapt into their car and sped off. The lights were not bright, but Mrs B can recall little about them. She remembers watching the thing drift extremely slowly into the distance, taking ages in its silent flight. 'It was huge', she reports. When it reached some distance away it accelerated at an enormous rate and vanished in seconds. Sadly, she never heard from the would-be buyers again! The location was south of Keighley on the road to Haworth, a few miles north of Todmorden. This case is interestingly akin to the classic slow moving mass seen over the Carrington Oil Refinery in November 1977 (see case 3 in Hilary Evans book 'The evidence for UFOs').

Case 9404 31 May 1994 22.45 Bollington, Cheshire R. Sandbach

Mrs S was looking over the Cheshire Plain when she saw a vague crescent shape with a shower of light inside. It remained stationary for about 30 minutes but gradually disappeared beneath the western horizon. This could have been a sunset effect or even one of Mr Campbell's mirages!

Case 9405 23 May 1994 00.00 Knutsford, Cheshire R. Sandbach

Mrs W was in bed when a brilliant pulse of light lit the room, even through closed curtains. She got out of bed, thinking from the reddish purple colour cast onto these that there must be a fire outside. Drawing the curtains she now saw a large mass of purplish light moving slowly across her garden at low height. It was at least the size of the sun or moon, probably larger, with rays coming off ('like beams coming out of an eye'). She noticed that as it passed behind her hawthorn tree it threw a vivid shadow of this onto the lawn. The object made absolutely no sound as it crossed Knutsford on the Northwich side moving from south to north. We could trace no airships in the area and there is no other obvious solution for this incident which lasted a couple of minutes. Note the parallels with the Halt report in Rendlesham Forest - ie an 'eye with pieces shooting off'.

Case 9406 4 July 1994 22.20 Stanlow, Cheshire R. Sandbach

A man and wife coming off the M53 South Wirral motorway near the massive power station near Ellesmere Port (as made famous by the Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark song) spotted a smokey yellow/white mass that was

oval in shape and lit up along the top by a white light. It moved, too slowly for a plane (often seen landing at Liverpool airport) and seemed to hover, then follow the line of the Mersey estuary. They stopped the car and got out, seeing it drift away without sound. We are almost certain that this was an illuminated airship (blimp) then known to be heading for Speke.

Case 9407 5 August 1994 22.00 Edgeley, Stockport, Cheshire R. Sandbach

A woman, her son and adult sister were in the back garden watching the aircraft come over on their final approach to Manchester Airport when they spotted a brilliant ball of golden light 'with a trail like a firework sparkler'. It was in the north-west and was visible for about 10 seconds before simply extinguishing. This was almost certainly a fireball meteor.

CASE HISTORIES



The lights of Louth Pt 4 Peter Gregory, Mike Morley, Mike Beadle, Rosie Oakes

Although there were various lights in the sky on the north east Lincolnshire/south east Humberside coast during autumn 1993 - indeed by Christmas contactee/abductee Peter Gregory had seen four and video filmed two of them - the big daddy of them all was to come on 9 December.

It was late that Thursday when Louth journalist Mick Hill found his desk besieged with callers. Over the next week they hardly stopped coming in and the answerphones were filled. Typical was a man from Reston who at 16.30 was on the Holton-le-Clay bypass when he saw 'very unusual lights' over the Jug & Bottle pub. He pulled over and got out, to watch three lights in a close triangle hovering in the sky. This then turned slowly on its axis and flew off to the north west. At nearby North Somercotes the same thing was seen. As both these sites are right by RAF Donna Nook (a coastal bombing practice range) military activity was inevitably suspected.

Indeed, an RAF witness suggested a Tucano trainer, but Mick Hill checked this out and there were none in the area. He also checked RAF Waddington for AWAX (early warning) flights. None of those were up either. Donna Nook had been flying all day, so were prime suspects. But the Station Commander was adamant that they had shut up shop before 15.30. In fact, as he staggered the reporter by admitting, he'd seen the triangular UFO himself on the way home! He noted that the lights 'looked unusual' and so he pulled over. He watched them move silently away, adding: 'I tried to be rational with the situation but certainly could not say what it was.' He contacted the MoD right away.

Nick Pope at Air Staff 2A confirmed the commander's report and added that this emphasised his interest in the case. However, Nick was unaware of the build up of activity locally, Peter Gregory's video, its mysterious disappearance, or the EM effects. These came into Mick Hill from local residents after he called the MoD and focused on the village of Fulstow between Louth and Donna Nook. Several independent reports described unusual atmospherics that caused TV sets to keep switching channels that evening. It was very annoying for the residents who had never seen anything like it.

Carl Benson, another RAF witness who saw the lights when driving at Little Grimsby, ruled out Tucano's and said the lights were steady, without strobes, there was no sound and the formation was too tight for aircraft. At first the triangle flew east to west, then it headed north and away.

NUN reader Mike Beadle from Ottringham spoke with Mick Hill. No checks had been made with USAF bases, which set me thinking of the mid-air refuelling exercises; although rather more lights were usually involved. Equally, Hill said that the UFO was motionless and then accelerated rapidly.

Reader Mike Morley from Doncaster spoke with Peter Gregory who had not seen the 9 December UFO but collated reports from many who had. One witness described a bright ball that detached from the formation and flew up into clouds. Mike also spoke with the CO at Donna Nook. He confirmed he saw the UFO, but was distracted by a line of cars honking him from behind as he was stopped in the middle of the road. When he looked back the UFO had gone. After giving it thought he now believed the object was an aircraft.

In August 1994 I visited the area with a film crew from the US TV series 'Sightings'. We went to Donna Nook to film on the windswept bombing range at Saltfleet (scene of the classic April 1984 encounter reported in NUN a decade ago). I also met Mick Hill. His analysis of the sightings notes that the closest witnesses saw 3 lights on each apex of the triangle and that there was a semi-translucent mass within the formation. An engineer witness described how it 'rotated' and 'left at such a speed you could not comprehend'. Some even heard a faint aircraft noise ('like a turbo prop'). My suspicion of a refuelling exercise remains aroused... *To be continued...*

FINAL WORDS

On Saturday 29 October at the Blackpool Central Library ASSAP stages its AGM with two open lectures from 3pm. Gary Rowe on the Doddleston case of 'messages from the past' found on a computer screen and I will assess data on spontaneous time anomalies (involving teleportations past/future time slips and Oz Factor states). Contact Melanie Warren at:- 14 Gresham Rd Thornton Blackpool Lancs FY5 3EE (or tel: Maurice Townsend on 081-655-1446)

On Sat/Sun 5/6 November at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London Andy Collins runs the psychic questing conference (with 'Doc' Shiels, Graham Phillips, Lynn Picknett, etc). Tickets £10. Call Atlantis Books 071-405-2120.

Not least, New UFOlogist, stages its first free gathering to discuss key cases, hot UFO topics and plan projects for new research initiatives on Saturday 19 November at the Friends Meeting House, Bull St, Birmingham. All welcome but space is limited, so please advise intent to come to Paul Fuller at:- 3 Selborne Ct Tavistock Close Romsey SO51 7TY (or phone 0794-522862.)

Local groups throughout the northern region

SPI	(Scotland)	41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire	FK10 2TT
SRUFO	(Scotland)	129 Langton Vw, East Calder, West Lothian	EH53 0RE
SEMR	(Scotland)	35 Fountain Rd, Bridge of Allan, Stirling	FK 9 4AU
NUFORI	(North East)	14 Longhirst Dr, Wideopen, Newcastle, Tyne	NE13 6JW
NLUFOIG	(Cumbria)	89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, Lancashire	LA 4 6RN
LAPIS	(Lancashire)	293 Devonshire Rd, Blackpool, Lancashire	FY 2 0TV
NARO*	(North West)	6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, Lancashire	VA 3 1EN
CONNECT	(West Yorks)	5 Stocks Hill, Menston, Ilkley, W. Yorks	LS29 6ND
PRA	(Derbyshire)	12 Tilton Grove, Kirk Hallam, Ilkeston	DE 7 4GR
GREEN DRAGON	(Staffs)	24 Nab Hill Drive, Leek, Staffordshire	ST13 8EE
PARA-SEARCH	(W. Midlands)	79 Sandringham Rd, Stourbridge, W. Mid	DY 8 5HL
LUFOIC	(E. Midlands)	PO Box 308 Leicester	LE 3 9AH
NUFORC	(Northants)	46 Occupation Rd, Corby, Northants	NN17 2EF
HURS	(Hereford)	6 Whitehouse Dr, Kingstone, Herefordshire	HR 2 5ER